

WATCH LIVE 4:30-7 am 11 am 5 pm 6 pm 7 pm 10 pm Weather Nation

http://www.waaytv.com/appnews/state-says-mentally-ill-man-stuck-in-jail-because-of/article_ab6cd396-caf8-11e5-9b64-a351e016f2d3.html

State says mentally ill man stuck in jail because of lack of room at facilities

Megan Wiebold mwiebold@waaytv.com Updated 4 hrs ago



Haraesheo Rice

A man whom the state says is mentally ill has nowhere else to go but to jail.

Just in the past year alone, Horaesheo Rice has been charged with 2nd degree assault on at least 6 law enforcement officers, including two corrections officers.

But, his attorney, and the state, agree he should be getting treatment. So, why isn't he?

"The tragedy of this system is that jail is the absolute worst place for a man with this illness. Sczizophrenia does not need to be in jail," says Bruce Gardner, Rice's attorney.

Horaesheo Rice is back behind bars, after a judge denied bail during a hearing Wednesday afternoon.

During the hearing, Rice asked to go to the bathroom, but was being uncooperative so deputies had to restrain him and bring him out into the hallway.

"If there's a man in this state who's in more need of immediate care than Horaesheo Rice then I don't know who it is," Gardner says.

But rice spends his day in solitary confinement here in Madison County, because there isn't any room at Taylor Hardin Secure Medical Facility.

"The problem with Taylor Hardin is they release 1-3 beds a month. And I believe Mr. Rice is somewhere about 35 on the waiting list, so it is an excruciatingly slow process, which taxes our system, taxes our sheriff and the jail, it has a client for Mr. Gardner who's awaiting trial and the system just sort of stalls because of our lack of beds available for mental health treatment," says Jay Town, the Assistant District Attorney.

The FBI is looking into allegations that Rice was beaten by sheriff's deputies back in August. He's being charged with assault and destruction of jail property in that incident.

Rice ended up going to the hospital.

The sheriff's department says rice became combative after deputies tried to remove him from his cell for failing to follow jail rules.

"Unfortunately we have stripped the state of mental health resources for people like Mr. Rice. So now, the jail is the dumping ground," Gardner says.

Hank Sherrod, who's been retained by rice's family, says video of the incident from the jail and documents still have not been released to him since the sheriff's department says there is an ongoing investigation. There has been no lawsuit filed, the matter is ongoing.

Megan Wiebold